

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A splicing device to splice a first web material, coming from a reel being fed, to a second web material, coming from a standing by reel, comprising two heads, each of which comprises:

- a roller associated with a clamping bar to hold between said roller and said clamping bar an initial edge of the second web material;

- a counter-pressure member cooperating with said roller to press said first and second web materials against each other;

- a cutting member;

wherein said counter-pressure member and said cutting member are carried by a moving unit controlled by an actuator which, through the movement ~~it~~ the actuator imparts on said moving unit, causes the first and the second web material to be pinched between said roller and said counter-pressure member, the first web material to be cut by said cutting member and the second web material to be released by a movement of said roller in respect of said clamping bar, the roller being pushed by said counter-pressure member and removed from the clamping bar.

2. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein braking means are disposed on said moving unit to hold the first web material during cutting, said actuator also controlling clamping of the first web material through said braking means.

3. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the moving unit of each of said heads is provided with an oscillating movement around a first axis of oscillation, controlled by said actuator.

4. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the moving unit of each of said heads is provided with an oscillating movement around a first axis of oscillation, controlled by said actuator.

5. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the counter-pressure member of each of said heads is supported by said moving unit in an oscillating way around a second axis of oscillation, substantially parallel to said first axis of oscillation, and said counter-pressure member has a substantially cylindrical surface cooperating with said roller.

6. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the counter-pressure member of each of said heads is supported by said moving unit in an oscillating way around a

second axis of oscillation, substantially parallel to said first axis of oscillation, and said counter-pressure member has a substantially cylindrical surface cooperating with said roller.

7. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said counter-pressure member has a surface, cooperating with said roller, constituted by a portion of a straight circular cylindrical surface with axis coinciding with the axis of oscillation of said counter-pressure member.

8. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said counter-pressure member has a surface, cooperating with said roller, constituted by a portion of a straight circular cylindrical surface with axis coinciding with the axis of oscillation of said counter-pressure member.

9. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in any one of claims 2, 4, 6 or 8, wherein said braking means is movably supported on said moving unit.

10. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said braking means comprise an oscillating arm hinged to said moving unit around an axis of oscillation,

and said oscillating arm is associated with an elastic member.

11. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said braking means is hinged around said first axis of oscillation, around which said moving unit oscillates.

12. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in any one of claim 2, 4, 6 or 8, wherein said braking means cooperates with a counter-pressure surface integral with said clamping bar.

13. (Currently Amended) Splicing device as claimed in one ~~or more~~ of claims 1 to 8, wherein said roller is supported by an oscillating arm associated with a stressing member which stresses the roller against said clamping bar.

14. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said stressing member is a piston-cylinder actuator which acts, at least temporarily, as an elastic stressing member.

15. (Currently Amended) Splicing device as claimed in one ~~or more~~ of claims 1 to 8, wherein said moving unit is equipped with a stop cooperating with a stop surface integral with said clamping bar, to define a position of maximum approach of said moving unit to said clamping bar.

16. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 15, wherein said moving unit is equipped with an auxiliary stop cooperating with said oscillating arms, to hold said roller detached from the clamping bar when the counter-pressure member moves away from its position of maximum approach to the roller.

17. (Currently Amended) Splicing device as claimed in one ~~or more~~ of claims 1 to 8 ~~claims~~, wherein a counter-blade cooperating with said cutting member is integral with said clamping bar.

18. (Currently Amended) Splicing device as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 13 ~~and 17~~, wherein said counter-blade is disposed adjacent to the counter-pressure surface with which said braking means cooperate.

19. (Currently Amended) Splicing device as claimed in one ~~or more~~ of claims 1 to 8, wherein said roller and said clamping bar of each head are carried by a moving support designed to adopt alternately a first operating position, in which the roller is in position to cooperate with said counter-pressure member, and a second position, to allow preparation and clamping of the free edge of the second web material.

20. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said moving support is provided with an oscillating movement.

21. (Currently Amended) Splicing device as claimed in one ~~or more~~ of claims 1 to 8, wherein when said cutting member is in the position to cut the web material, ~~it~~ said cutting member forms, with the direction of feed of the web material, an acute angle.

22. (Original) Splicing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said cutting member comprises a serrated blade.

23. (Currently Amended) An unwinder comprising means to support and handle reels of web material and a splicing device according to one ~~or more of the previous~~ of claims 1 to 8.

24. (Currently Amended) Method ~~to~~ for splicing together a first web material and a second web material, comprising ~~the phases of:~~

- providing two splicing heads, each splicing head including: a roller associated with a clamping bar, a counter-pressure member cooperating with said roller, and a cutting member in a vicinity of said counter-pressure member;

- arranging a free leading edge of the second web material on ~~a~~ the roller of a first one of said two splicing heads, clamping it said free leading edge between said roller and ~~a~~ the clamping bar corresponding therewith, with a strip of double-sided adhesive material applied to said free leading edge;

- arranging ~~a~~ the counter-pressure member opposite said roller corresponding thereto;

~~- arranging a cutting member in the vicinity of said counter-pressure member,~~  
~~characterized by causing wherein,~~ with a single actuator provides:

- a movement to approach and press the counter-pressure member against said roller to pinch between said counter-pressure member and said roller the first web material and the second web material with the strip of double-sided adhesive material between them;

- a movement of the cutting member to cut the first web material;

- and a movement of said roller in respect of said clamping bar to release said second web material, the roller being pushed by said counter-pressure member and removed from the clamping bar.

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25. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 24, characterized by arranging a braking means in the vicinity of said cutting member and causing with said actuator a braking movement of said first web material by means of said braking means.

26. (New) Splicing device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said counter-blade is disposed adjacent to the counter-pressure surface with which said braking means cooperate.